

Remarks

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the approval of the proposed drawing corrections.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being met by Miyano (U.S. Patent No. 5,990,404). The Examiner also rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being met by Farrand (U.S. Patent No. 4,945,804), Jungleib (U.S. Patent No. 5,286,908) and Akutsu (U.S. Patent No. 4,662,261). Claims 2-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being fully met by Farrand. These rejections are respectfully traversed with support for Applicant's argument set forth below.

As discussed in the previous amendment, the present invention is directed to an electronic musical instrument that allows a keyboard for a computer (the "computer keyboard") to be connected to the instrument. The user can operate the computer keyboard, upon connection with the electronic musical instrument, to easily and simply input the various settings for the instrument.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner cited Miyano. Miyano relates to a performance data editing apparatus. Fig. 1 illustrates a computer system corresponding to the performance data editing apparatus. The system includes a keyboard-type electronic musical instrument 8 connected to the main body 1 via a MIDI cable 7. A keyboard 3 is provided for manipulations. In fig. 2, the MIDI cable 7 is connected to the MIDI interface 17 (see col. 3, lines 60-61) while the manipulation section 13 is provided in connection with the keyboard 3 (see col. 3, lines 36-38). Thus, as shown in figs. 1 and 2 and set forth in the disclosure of Miyano, the keyboard 3 is not directly connected to the keyboard-type electronic musical instrument 8. In contrast, the computer keyboard of the present invention is directly connected to an electronic musical instrument, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Miyano.

Claim 1 is likewise not anticipated by the remaining cited references -- Jungleib, Akutsu and Farrand. Jungleib relates to generating and controlling computer graphic images using musical instruments. That is, it discloses a method of linking computer animated graphics to computer-controlled music. As illustrated in fig. 1, a musical instrument 3 provides musical information to an instrument interface 5 (see col. 3, lines 20-23). The musical information is then transmitted to a computer processor 19 with a computer interface 7. The computer processor 19 can accept inputs from the user input block 21 (see col. 4, lines 29-33). Jungleib, therefore, does not disclose nor suggest a computer keyboard directly connected to an electronic musical instrument.

Akustu discloses an electronic musical instrument, with an autoplay function, for generating a tone according to a given key signal. Fig. 1 is a block diagram of this electronic musical instrument. The instrument has a keyboard 4 with 61 manual play keys which are periodically scanned by the CPU 1. A personal computer 9 is connected to the MIDI interface 3 (see col. 2, lines 3-15). Because Akustu does not disclose nor suggest a computer keyboard directly connected to an electronic musical instrument, claim 1 is not anticipated by Akustu.

Finally, Farrand relates to a method and system for transcribing musical information that allows a musician to enter rhythmic information for the musical information to be transcribed. The system includes an instrument for playing or entering rhythmic and melodic information associated with the musical information to be transcribed, an interface for translating this information into music data to be communicated to a processing means and a programmable data processing means for receiving the music data and transcribing the music data into visual or printed musical notation (see col. 2, lines 30-40). As illustrated in fig. 1, the elements of the system include an electronic keyboard 12, a MIDI interface 14 and programmable data processing means 16 (see col. 6, lines 20-41). The electronic keyboard 12 is connected to the MIDI interface 14, which can be within the processing means 16 (see col. 6, lines 38-41). Thus, the electronic keyboard 12 is connected to the processing means 16, and not directly to the

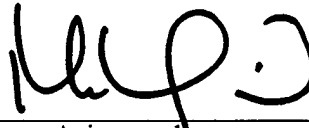
computer keyboard 24. Accordingly, Farrand does not anticipate claim 1 of the present invention.

The remaining independent claims -- claims 2, 3 and 5 -- are similarly allowable, because all of these claims recite a computer keyboard directly connected to an electronic musical instrument. For the same reasons, dependent claims 4 and 6 are allowable as well.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the rejected claims are respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that it would advance the prosecution of the application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the attorney of record.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 39303.2012500 (25484.00796). However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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